

On Sunday we considered 2 Kings 11 and saw how the Lord preserved His promise to David while Athaliah ruled in Jerusalem. Through Jehosheba's courage, Joash was rescued and hidden until the day he was revealed as the rightful king. We were reminded that God's faithfulness does not depend on our ability to see His work, and that His purposes often unfold through quiet acts of obedience. As we looked beyond Joash to Jesus Christ, the faithful and everlasting King, we were encouraged to trust His promises, resist evil, and serve Him with patient hope.

Monday: The Promise Was Still Alive

Scripture Reading: 2 Kings 11:1–3

The opening of this chapter is difficult to read. Athaliah destroys the royal family, and the throne of David falls into the hands of someone determined to secure her own power. God had promised that David's house would endure. Now the very family through which that promise would be fulfilled appears to have been destroyed. We can understand why someone living through those days might have wondered whether the Lord had forgotten His people.

But the next verses tell us something Athaliah did not know. One child had been rescued. Joash was alive, hidden in the house of the Lord. The evil was real, and the grief it caused was real, but neither could overturn God's covenant. What people could see of their circumstances was only part of what was happening.

We have even greater reason to trust the Lord's faithfulness because we know what He has accomplished through Jesus Christ. At the cross, wicked men put the promised Son of David to death. Yet through His death, Jesus bore the sins of His people, and on the third day He rose again. Our salvation rests on something already accomplished. No trouble we face today can undo His finished work.

Perhaps there is a circumstance in your life that you cannot reconcile with God's goodness. You do not have to pretend it is easy or supply an explanation He has not given. Bring the difficulty honestly before Him. He has not promised that every earthly hope will be fulfilled, but He has promised to keep those who belong to Christ. The God who raised His Son is worthy of our trust when we cannot see what comes next.

Reflection Questions

1. What circumstance currently makes it difficult for you to trust God's goodness?

2. Are you holding to something God has promised, or expecting Him to fulfill an outcome you have chosen?

3. How could remembering Christ's death and resurrection change the way you pray about that circumstance today?

Prayer

Heavenly Father, You know how quickly we become afraid when we cannot understand what You are doing. Forgive us for treating our limited sight as though it were the whole truth. Thank You for securing our salvation through the death and resurrection of Your Son. Help us to bring our grief and questions honestly before You. By Your Spirit, teach us to trust Your promises through the troubles of this day. Amen.

Tuesday: The Good Within Your Reach

Scripture Reading: 2 Kings 11:2

Jehosheba could not undo the bloodshed Athaliah had already caused. She could not make the queen righteous or restore the kingdom by herself. But there was a child whose life she could protect, and she acted. She took Joash and his nurse away from the danger and hid them. In a chapter filled with the abuse of power, her courage takes the form of care for someone helpless.

God used that act to preserve David's royal line, through which Jesus Christ would come. Jehosheba's place in this account reminds us that the Lord's sovereignty gives weight to ordinary human obedience. He works through people

who protect, shelter, speak, and serve. We rarely know how far the consequences of faithful action will reach.

Our own obedience begins with the mercy we have received. Jesus came to save us when we could not rescue ourselves, giving His life to reconcile us to God. Those who have been loved in this way are being taught to love others. We do not need to prove our importance or secure our standing before the Father. In Christ, we are free to attend to the person who needs our help.

It is easy to become so occupied with everything wrong in the world that we overlook the good within our reach. There may be someone you can defend against cruel speech, a child who needs your patient attention, or a burden you can help another person carry. Such service may cost time, comfort, or approval. Ask the Lord for the courage to do what love requires, and entrust the results to Him.

Reflection Questions

1. Who has God placed near you whose need you have been tempted to overlook?

2. What cost or fear makes you reluctant to help that person?

3. What particular act of love can you undertake today because Christ has already shown you mercy?

Prayer

Lord Jesus, You saw our helplessness and gave Yourself to save us. Forgive us for becoming absorbed in troubles far away while neglecting people close at hand. Open our eyes to the good You have given us to do. Give us courage when love is costly and humility when our service goes unnoticed. Help us to care for others in grateful dependence on Your grace. Amen.

Wednesday: Six Years of Hidden Faithfulness

Scripture Reading: 2 Kings 11:3–4

Scripture passes over six years in a single verse. Joash remained hidden in the house of the Lord while Athaliah ruled the land. The rescue happened in a

moment of danger, but keeping him safe required care that continued long afterward. Before there were trumpets and a coronation, there were years in which the rightful king remained out of sight.

We often find continued faithfulness harder than a single difficult decision. We may begin a duty with determination and then grow weary when little seems to change. Prayer for a loved one continues. Care for a family member continues. The same temptation must be resisted again. We begin to wonder whether obedience is accomplishing anything because we cannot point to a visible result.

Jesus understands a life of patient obedience. He fulfilled the work His Father gave Him, enduring suffering all the way to the cross. Having risen from the dead, He now sustains those who trust Him. Our perseverance depends on His continuing care. When we are tired, we can come to Him for the grace needed to carry out the next duty.

Joash's six years of concealment do not give us a timetable for our own trials. They do remind us that a season of waiting can contain work God values, even when the world takes little notice. Continue to pray, keep the promises you have made, and receive help from fellow believers when you need it. The Lord sees the faithfulness that others never see, and He has not forgotten the people who depend on Him.

Reflection Questions

1. In what repeated responsibility have you become weary or discouraged?

2. How has your desire for visible results affected your willingness to continue faithfully?

3. What help do you need to seek from Christ and from His people this week?

Prayer

Faithful Father, You see the duties that weary us and the prayers we have offered for many years. Forgive our impatience and our tendency to measure Your care by immediate results. Thank You that Jesus completed the work of our salvation and continues to care for us. Strengthen us by Your Spirit for the responsibilities of this day. Give us humility to receive help and patience to leave the timing in Your hands. Amen.

Thursday: The King Has Not Left His Throne

Scripture Reading: Ephesians 1:19–23

When Joash was brought out and crowned, the people could finally see the heir whom Athaliah had failed to destroy. His appearance revealed the limits of her power. For all her violence, she had not brought God's promise to an end. The son of David stood before them, and they rejoiced.

Paul directs our attention to a greater Son of David. God raised Jesus from the dead and seated Him above every rule, authority, power, and dominion. Christ's reign is a present reality. His authority does not rise and fall with the church's public standing or with the decisions of earthly rulers. Even where His lordship is denied, He remains Lord.

Notice, too, that Paul speaks of this exalted Christ in relation to the church. The One who possesses all authority is the Savior who gave Himself for His people. His power is joined to His faithful love. We can bring Him our concern for the church, including our concern for believers who suffer, knowing that He has neither forgotten them nor surrendered His rule.

This truth should shape the way we speak about the world. We can acknowledge wickedness, grieve its consequences, and fulfill our responsibilities without allowing fear to govern our words. Before passing along another anxious prediction, pause to pray. Ask whether your speech helps others remember the authority and goodness of Jesus. The church has a living Head, and we can serve Him with courage today.

Reflection Questions

1. What news or concern most often leads you to speak as though the church's future were uncertain in God's hands?

2. How does Christ's love for His church help you understand His authority over all things?

3. What would change in one conversation today if you spoke with confidence in His present reign?

Prayer

Almighty Father, we praise You for raising Jesus from the dead and seating Him above every earthly power. Forgive the fearful speech that forgets His authority and unsettles those around us. Remember Your people who suffer, and uphold them in faith. By Your Spirit, give us wisdom to fulfill our duties with courage and love. Keep our congregation confident in the care of our risen King. Amen.

Friday: Belonging to the Lord

Scripture Reading: 2 Kings 11:17–18

Joash's coronation was followed by a renewal of the covenant. The king and the people were bound to the Lord, and their public worship had to reflect that allegiance. The temple of Baal could not remain an accepted part of their common life. Their return to the Lord called for a real turning away from the worship that had corrupted them.

We also need to consider what belonging to God requires. Through the blood of Jesus Christ, sinners are forgiven and brought into fellowship with the Father. We receive this mercy by faith, without earning it through moral improvement. Yet the grace that welcomes us also teaches us to repent. Christ saves us from sins we once defended and begins to reorder our loves.

Our idols may have familiar and respectable names. Approval becomes an idol when we will disobey God to keep it. Comfort becomes an idol when it excuses indifference to another person's need. Control becomes an idol when we cannot bear to entrust our future to the Lord. These things expose how readily our hearts give created goods the allegiance that belongs to God.

The fitting response is honest confession and a concrete step of obedience. If approval rules you, tell the truth you have been avoiding. If comfort rules you, make room for a duty you have neglected. You can face these sins because your acceptance with God rests in Christ's righteousness. Ask His Spirit to help you turn from what enslaves you and learn the freedom of belonging wholly to Him.

Reflection Questions

1. Which desire most often persuades you to excuse something you know is wrong?

2. How does knowing that you are accepted through Christ help you confess that

sin honestly?

3. What practical change would express repentance in this area today?

Prayer

Merciful Father, thank You for receiving us through the righteousness and blood of Jesus Christ. We confess that our hearts often cling to things that draw us away from You. Show us where our desires have become excuses for disobedience. By Your Spirit, give us the willingness and strength to turn from our sin. Teach us to enjoy Your gifts with grateful hearts and to love You above them all. Amen.

Saturday: A Kingdom That Will Not End

Scripture Reading: Luke 1:30–33

The account in 2 Kings 11 ends with rejoicing and quiet in Jerusalem. Athaliah's reign is over, and the rightful king sits on the throne. After the horror with which the chapter began, that quiet is a mercy. God had preserved His promise and given His people reason to rejoice again.

Yet Joash was still a sinful man who needed the Lord's mercy. His coronation could not provide the lasting peace for which God's people longed. When the angel announced the birth of Jesus, he spoke of the throne of David and a kingdom without end. Here was the King whose faithfulness would never fail. Jesus would accomplish what no earthly ruler could: deliver His people from their sins and bring them into everlasting life.

Through His death and resurrection, Christ has secured peace with God for everyone who trusts in Him. We still experience grief, conflict, and the weariness of life in a fallen world, but we face them as people reconciled to the Father. And we await the day when our King returns and His people are freed from sin, suffering, and death. Our hope reaches beyond the best arrangements we can make in this present life.

As we prepare to gather for worship again, we can bring both gratitude and longing before the Lord. Thank Him for the real mercies of this week, including the small moments of quiet He has given. Bring Him the sorrows that remain unresolved. We gather around His Word because the risen Son of David lives, and

His faithfulness gives us reason to sing even while we wait.

Reflection Questions

1. Where are you asking an earthly person or circumstance to give you a security only Christ can provide?

2. What mercy from this week can you thank God for, and what unresolved sorrow do you need to entrust to Him?

3. How can the promise of Christ's everlasting kingdom shape your preparation for worship tomorrow?

Prayer

Lord Jesus, You are the faithful Son of David whose kingdom will never end. Thank You for making peace through Your blood and bringing us near to the Father. Forgive us for placing our deepest hopes in people and circumstances that cannot sustain them. Prepare our hearts to gather with Your church in gratitude, repentance, and expectant faith. Uphold us by Your Spirit until the day we see You and enter the fullness of Your peace. Amen.On Sunday we considered 2 Kings 11 and saw how the Lord preserved His promise to David while Athaliah ruled in Jerusalem. Through Jehosheba's courage, Joash was rescued and hidden until the day he was revealed as the rightful king. We were reminded that God's faithfulness does not depend on our ability to see His work, and that His purposes often unfold through quiet acts of obedience. As we looked beyond Joash to Jesus Christ, the faithful and everlasting King, we were encouraged to trust His promises, resist evil, and serve Him with patient hope.